

challenges. These incidents demonstrate the importance of strengthening the laws and rules protecting personal information held by Federal agencies—and we need to do this quickly.

In order to get a more complete picture of the problem before pursuing legislation, we sent a request to all cabinet agencies seeking information about data breaches involving the loss of sensitive personal information.

The results were troubling. We learned there have been a wide range of incidents involving data loss or theft, privacy breaches, and security incidents. In almost all of these cases, Congress and the public would not have learned of each event unless we had requested the information.

My bill requires timely notice be provided to individuals whose sensitive personal information could be compromised by a breach of data security at a Federal agency. Despite the volume of sensitive information held by agencies, there currently is no requirement people be notified if their information is compromised. Under this legislation, the executive branch must establish practices, procedures and standards for agencies to follow if sensitive personal information is lost or stolen and there is a reasonable risk of harm to an individual. And we provide a clear definition of the type of sensitive information we're trying to protect.

We also give the agency Chief Information Officers the authority, when appropriate and authorized, to ensure agency personnel comply with the information security laws already on the books.

Finally, we ensure costly equipment containing potentially sensitive information is accounted for and secure. Half of the lost Census Bureau computers simply were not returned by departing or terminated employees. The agency did not track computer equipment, nor were employees held accountable for failing to return it. This is taxpayer funded equipment, containing sensitive information, and we must know what we have and who has it—at all times.

Each year, I release Federal agency information security scorecards. Despite some improvement, scores for many departments remain unacceptably low. The Federal Government overall received a C minus, a slight improvement over prior years.

The Federal Government has sensitive personal information on every citizen—health records, tax returns, military records. We need to ensure the public knows when its sensitive personal information has been lost or compromised in some way.

The language in this bill is identical to H.R. 6163, which I introduced last Congress. Last year, with the assistance of then Chairman STEVE BUYER, I incorporated this language into the Veterans Identity and Credit Security Act (H.R. 5835), which passed the House on September 26. That bill, including my language, had strong bipartisan support, with 67 cosponsors from both sides of the aisle, including the new chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

This bill is a critical first step toward limiting the loss of our sensitive personal information. I hope we can again move this important legislation through the House.

TRIBUTE TO DR. CAROLYN MAZURE AS SHE RECEIVES THE ELIZABETH BLACKWELL AWARD

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join Connecticut NOW and all of those gathered in extending my sincere congratulations to my good friend, Dr. Carolyn Mazure, as she is honored with this year's Elizabeth Blackwell Award. Carolyn is a remarkable woman whose outstanding accomplishments have had significant impacts on women's health research. Each year, Connecticut NOW presents the Elizabeth Blackwell Award to an individual for "outstanding achievements in facilitating women's holistic health: emotional, psychological, physical, and spiritual." I cannot think of a more appropriate or deserving recipient than Dr. Carolyn Mazure. She has dedicated her professional life to the advancement of women's health. Perhaps her most important contribution, to her field and to women everywhere, is the establishment of Women's Health Research at Yale—a program dedicated to advancing the study of women's health and gender differences across all areas of biomedical and psychosocial study.

Carolyn first came to New Haven to complete her postgraduate education at Yale University. Upon completion of her degree she was offered a faculty position at Yale—the University could not have made a wiser investment. Beginning her career as a clinician and researcher, Carolyn has built a distinguished reputation as a recognized scholar, esteemed clinician, teacher, mentor, and accomplished administrator. It was through her unique vision and respected understanding of the value of gender-specific research and data that Women's Health Research at Yale was developed. Carolyn has served as the organization's director from its inception—setting a new standard of practice for medical research.

In under a decade, Women's Health Research at Yale has initiated work and issued invaluable findings on some of the most pressing problems in women's health. The genetics of breast and ovarian cancer; the role of estrogen in memory; cancer screening in HIV-positive women; prevention of domestic violence; and gender differences in cardiovascular disease are just a small example of the more than 50 major projects they have initiated to date. This research, combined with the program's active educational community outreach, has translated new findings into practice as well as influencing public policies on health—making a real difference in the lives of women across the country.

I have had the distinct pleasure of working with Carolyn for many years and have often found myself in awe of her energy and enthusiasm. I have had the honor to introduce Carolyn on two of three occasions she provided testimony to the U.S. Congress regarding the importance of research on women's health and it was without hesitation that I supported her nomination for the 2005 American Association of University Women Achievement Award. I am grateful to Carolyn for her inspiring vision of what truly comprehensive medicine can be and so proud to have the opportunity to work with her.

Carolyn is a visionary leader who not only possesses the ability to explain the issues that confront us, but to also identify the path that stimulates change and builds alliances that unite us. She is dedicated to the common good and draws us to shared goals through her personal warmth and deep convictions. Guided by clear thinking, intense intellectual curiosity as well as integrity and honesty—this is a woman who has a genuine concern for the well-being of others and is committed to improving our lives and those of women in the future. I could not be more pleased to rise today to join Connecticut NOW, family, friends, colleagues and community members in extending my heart-felt congratulations to Dr. Carolyn Mazure as she receives this very special award. Carolyn has left an indelible mark on her field, our community and indeed our nation. It is a legacy that will continue to influence public policy and the health of women for generations to come.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 110-31)

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, for the third time I will vote in strong support of H.R. 1591, The Iraq Accountability Act. This time I will vote to override the President's veto of this critical legislation. With U.S. troop levels in Iraq increasing towards 170,000, all of whom are in the middle of a civil war; it is an act of political gamesmanship, not executive leadership, for President Bush to veto this legislation. With this veto, President Bush, with the strong support of his Republican minority in Congress, rejected \$95.5 billion for our troops in harm's way and walks away from billions in needed funds for our veterans. The President vetoed this bill and rejected providing our troops with needed training, mandatory rest time, and an exit strategy from a civil war in Iraq.

This presidential veto sends a clear message to Congress and to the overwhelming majority of American people who are demanding a change in this administration's Iraq policy. The message is this: the White House has no intentions of holding Iraq's political leaders accountable for the future of their country. They have no intention of honoring the benchmarks his administration has established for measuring success in Iraq. And, President Bush has no intention of ending the U.S. military's presence in Iraq during his remaining 20 months in the White House. The only timetable this president is likely to honor will result in him walking out of the White House on January 20, 2009, leaving behind more than a hundred thousand U.S. troops in Iraq and the greatest foreign policy disaster in American history for a new president to address.

The Democratic majority in this House have made the needs of our troops, our veterans and our Nation's security our top priority. Unlike the minority in Congress and the White